

ASSEMBLYMEMBER

JOHN LAIRDRepresenting the 27th Assembly District
Portions of Monterey, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties**eNews Update****September 12, 2008****Key Bills Advance to Governor for Signature**

Though the state budget impasse continues—and still without a balanced budget proposal from legislative Republicans—progress has been made on passing key legislation. The Legislature has completed work on all non-budget bills for 2008, and I'm pleased to report the Legislature has approved 3 of my resolutions and is sending 17 bills I've authored on to the governor for his signature. The governor has threatened to veto any bills that come to his desk before a state budget is passed. I'm optimistic the budget impasse will conclude soon and the business of turning bills into laws can continue.

The governor has until September 30, 2008, to sign, veto or do nothing with the bills he receives. If he does nothing, the bill automatically becomes law. In the case of each of the 17 bills I'm sending him, should they become law, they will take effect January 1, 2009.

Read on to learn more about my legislative package, which is organized by subject areas including environmental, healthcare and children's issues, civil rights, education, and government organization and public accessibility. For an update on the state budget impasse see the side-bar to the right.

2008 Laird Legislative Round-up**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

- [ACR 153](#), Proclaims October 11, 2008, as **Coastal Trail Day**
- [AB 2270](#), Increases **water quality and water recycling** by removing barriers to controlling water salinity
- [AB 2455](#), Creates **State Parks Preservation Board**
- [AB 2466](#), Enables local governments to increase **use of renewable energy**

**Day 74:
State Budget Crisis**

The state faces a \$15.2 billion budget gap. At the heart of the budget impasse is the question of how to bridge this gap. Democrats have made multiple proposals that include a mix of responsible cuts and increased taxes on the state's wealthiest taxpayers. The governor has proposed a mix of cuts and a temporary increase to the state sales tax. Legislative Republicans have pledged not to raise taxes or fees, and have proposed a mix of devastatingly deep cuts and more borrowing—two things opposed by Democrats.

9/10/08 John releases report on Governor's "August Revise" budget. [Read more.](#)

8/30/08 John delivers Democratic Weekly Radio Address. [Listen.](#)

8/29/08 John calls on Republicans to level with California. [Read more.](#)

8/28/08 The California Progress Report publishes John's op-ed answering the question, "Why can't we get a state budget?" [Read it.](#)

8/8/08 John tells Republicans they're holding voters hostage, but won't provide a ransom note. [Watch.](#) [Read.](#)

7/14/08 John issues Conference

- [AB 2532](#), Promotes **sustainable marine fisheries**
- [AB 2763](#), Creates **Invasive Pest Planning Act** in response to CA's controversial Light Brown Apple Moth program
- [AB 2921](#), Modifies the Williamson Act to increase **protections for open space and agricultural lands**
- [AB 2945](#), Designates portion of Limekiln State Park as a Wilderness Area & streamlines **wilderness management**

HEALTHCARE AND CHILDREN'S ISSUES

- [AJR 54](#), Urges Congress and Pres. Bush to **restore access to the State Children's Health Ins. Program (SCHIP)**
- [AB 55](#), Helps California's **healthcare system move toward a paperless system**
- [AB 1060](#), Clarifies and updates **tissue bank regulations for dentists**
- [AB 2300](#), Increases **access to school meals**
- [AB 2440](#), Assists cancer patients with **access to essential treatments**
- [AB 2844](#), Increases **access to food stamps** and streamlines paperwork for food stamps and CalWorks programs

CIVIL RIGHTS

- [AB 2654](#), **Strengthens and clarifies state nondiscrimination laws** (this is the 5th such bill in a 5-part series)

EDUCATION

- [AB 1230](#), Increases efficiency and effectiveness of the **California Career Resources Network**
- [AB 3033](#), Streamlines process for establishing **UC research contracts**

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION & PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

- [ACR 154](#), Proclaims **October 2008 State Archives Month** to encourage access to state records
- [AB 2472](#), Resolves long-standing lease-exchange issue between CA and City of Santa Cruz re: **DeLaveaga Park**
- [AB 2595](#), Establishes state procedure for **recovering lost public records**

Committee report on proposed budget. [Read more.](#)

More on the Budget Crisis:

- Budget [Subcommittee Report](#).
- John's [op-ed](#) on education funding.
- State budget [current documents and background](#).
- How you can [get involved](#).

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